THE

ORDEAL.

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POETRY.

THE following lines to GEORGE COLMAN the Younger we hope will be found to possess sufficient interest amongst the lovers of the drama, to attract their attention. They have merit, and occasionally touch upon subjects of local application. We are so much pleased with the genius and wit of the writer to whom they are addressed, that we are happy in seizing every opportunity to extend his reputation.

HORACE; BOOK II. ODE 16.

Otium Divos rogat in patenti, &c.

TO GEORGE COLMAN THE YOUNGER, ESQ.

THE youth, from his indentures freed,
Who mounts astride the flying steed,
The Muses' hunt to follow,
With terror eyes the yawning pit,
And for a modicum of wit
Petitions great Apollo.

For wit the quarto-building wight
Invokes the Gods; the jilt in spite
Eludes the man of letters—
Wit through the wire-wove margin glides,
And all the gilded pomp derides
Of red Morocco fetters.

Vain is the smart port-folio set,
The costly inkstand, black as jet,
The desk of polish'd level;
The well shorn pens to use at will;
'Tis no great task to cut a quill—
To cut a joke's the devil!

Happy, for rural business fit,
Who merely tells his mother wit,
In rural life he settles :
Unskill'd in repartee to shine,
He ne'er exclaims—" descend, ye *nine*,"
But when he plays at skettles.

They who neglect their proper home
To dig for ore in Greece or Rome,
Are poor Quixotick Vandals ;
Europe was overrun by Goths,
But why should we, like foolish moths,
Buzz round the Roman candles ?

Care swarms in rivers, roads, and bogs,
Unfricaseed, like Pharoah's frogs ;
We cannot all be merry.
It roams thro' London streets at large,
And now bestrides a Lord Mayor's barge,
And now a Vauxhall wherry.

The man who no vertigo feels,
When borne aloft on Fortune's wheels,
But at their motion titters ;
Emerging from a sea of strife,
Enjoys the present sweets of life,
Nor heeds its future bitters.

Poor *Tobin** died, alas ! too soon,
Ere with chaste ray his *Honey Moon*
Had shone to glad the nation :

* This writer, in addition to the Honey Moon, has produced The Pharo Table, The Curfew, and The School for Authors; and some others, which it seems during his life were rejected at the theatres. Some persons have expressed ſtrong doubts of the exiſtence of ſuch a man as Mr. Tobin ; they consider it very extraordinary, that a series of plays, as excellent as those which have been attributed to him, should have remained neglected during his life, and he entirely unknown to the world. That these plays should have appeared one by one, each as the *last* production of the author, is a circumstance equally singular. Yet Mr. Holcroft has given us an account of his life, so circumstantial and characteristick, that we cannot avoid giving credit to the supposition that Tobin was a real, and not a fictitious name.

This eminent poet was born at Salisbury in England, Jan. 28, 1770. He was sent to school in Southampton, when his parents left England to reside in Nevis. In 1785 he was articled to an eminent solicitor of Lincoln's Inn. This gentleman died, and Tobin then became partner with three other clerks in the office ; but some disagreement occurring, he engaged with a

Others, I will not mention who,
For many a year may, *(entre nous)*
Outlive—their own damnation.

Who creep in prose, or soar in rhyme,
Alike must bow the knee to time,
From *Massinger* to *Murphy*.
And all who flit on Lethe's brink,
Too weak to swim, alas! must sink—
Tom Dibdin or *Tom Durfey*.

Fortune to thee two Muses gave,
One *debonnaire*, the other grave;
You hospitably screen 'em:
For still, O man of virtue rare,
Altho' the love of both you share,
You never *sleep* between 'em.

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a friend in a new firm His health declined, and in 1803 he went to reside in Cornwall, by the advice of his physicians. His disorder terminated in a consumption; and in 1804, after having taken passage in a vessel for the West-Indies, he died on the very day she sailed. The ship returned to Cork in consequence of contrary winds; and Tobin was followed to the grave by the friend, who had undertaken to accompany him to the West-Indies.

The characteristick of Tobin seems to be delicacy of taste. There is never any greatness or depth of thought about him, but his language is always pure and harmonious, and his thinking ingenious and novel.

"Averse to walking, unless when he had a strong motive, his hours were lost in thought, or in the creations of an active mind. Abstracted and constitutionally indolent, he was alike apt to forget forms and neglect pecuniary concerns; yet, having a high sense of moral duty, he never broke even trifling engagements. He frequently composed while walking the streets, and especially songs, which he usually committed to writing when he came home. Animated by society and enjoying rational conversation, yet, as solitude never displeased him, he did not anxiously seek company; though always happy to see a few valued friends, their absence was never perceptible. Unruffled by the accidents of life, possessed of fortitude not easily shaken, and with a mind never unemployed, he was subject to no fits of weariness. He was altogether the happiest man I ever knew. Though the progress of the disease alarmed him, he contemplated death without fear or superstition. Hope and fancy pictured to him his future success on the stage, while his bodily powers were wasting and his energies daily on the decline. He died without a groan. While at Falmouth, he revised some of his works, and wrote notes on Shakespeare, intending to contribute to a new edition of our immortal bard. Two of his unfinished plays it was his intention to complete in the West-Indies. A constant reader of Beaumont and Fletcher and the writers of that age, he was no less an admirer of Farquar and some of his cotemporaries. He also read some Spanish comedies, but found little to admire, except the ingenuity of their plots. Genuine comedy he supposed might find support from the publick, and a better taste be revived, notwithstanding the mercenary motives by which it continues to be depraved."

She gave thee to a summer stage,
'Gainst opera chiefs the war to wage
With bodies lean and taper.
I list beneath *thy* Muse's wing,
Who would not rather hear her sing,
Than see her sister caper ?

My Muse is of the ostrich sort,
Her eggs, of fortune's gale the sport,
She in the sand conceals 'em ;
By no instrusive wanderer found,
Till watchman Phœbus walks his round,
And with his ray reveals 'em.

But should the god's far-darting ray,
Destroy her feeble lines to day,
She'll breed again to-morrow :
These trifles ne'er her mind annoy,
Who never knew a parent's joy,
Ne'er felt a parent's sorrow.

THE INDIAN PRINCESS.

IN our review of this play, last week, want of room obliged us to curtail our selections. We give the following scene at the commencement of the third act, as a specimen of the author's talents at humorous composition. It is certainly not inferiour to the writings of most modern English play-mongers, the opinions of their criticks to the contrary notwithstanding ; and would by no means discredit the plays of Colman or Tobin.

WALTER *and* ALICE.

Wal. One mouthful more *(kiss)*. Oh ! after a long lent of absence, what a charming relish is a kiss, served from the lips of a pretty wife, to a hungry husband.

Al. And, believe me, I banquet at the high festival of return with equal pleasure. But what has made your absence so tedious, prithee ?

Wal. Marry, girl, thus it was : when we had given the enemies of our ally, Powhatan, defeature, and sent the rough Miami in chains to Werocomoco, our captain despatches his lieutenant, Rolfe, to supply his place, here, in the town ; and leading us to the water's edge, and leaping into the pinnace, away went we on a voyage of discovery.—Some thousand miles we sailed, and many strange nations discovered ;

and for our exploits, if posterity reward us not, there is no faith in history.

Al. And what were your exploits?
Wal. Rare ones egad!
We took the devil, Okee, prisoner.
Al. And have you brought him hither?
Wal. No: his vot'ries
Redeem'd him with some score or two of deer skins.
Then we've made thirty kings our tributaries:
Such sturdy rogues, that each could easily
Fillip a buffaloe to death with 's finger.
Al. But have you got their treasures?
Wal. All, my girl.
Imperial robes of raccoon, crowns of feather;
Besides the riches of their sev'ral kingdoms—
A full boat load of corn.
Al. O wonderful!
Wal. Ay, is it not? But, best of all, I've kiss'd
The little finger of a mighty queen.
Sweet soul! among the court'sies of her court,
She gave us a Virginian Mascarado.
Al. Dost recollect the fashion of it?
Wal. Oh!
Were I to live till Time were in his dotage,
'Twould never from mine eyes. Imagine first,
The scene, a gloomy wood; the time, midnight;
Her squawship's maids of honour were the masquers;
Their masks were wolves' heads curiously set on,
And, bating a small difference of hue,
Their dress e'en such as madam Eve had on,
Or ere she eat the apple.
Al. Pshaw!
Wal. These dresses,
All o'er perfum'd with the self-same pomado
Which our fine dames at home buy of old Bruin,
Glisten'd most gorgeously unto the moon.
Thus, each a firebrand brandishing aloft,
Rush'd they all forth, with shouts and frantick yells,
In dance grotesque, and diabolical,
Madder than mad Bacchantes.
Al. O the powers!
Wal. When they had finished the divertisement
A beauteous Wolf-head came to me—
Al. To you?
Wal. And lit me with her pine-knot torch to bedward,

Where, as the custom of the court it was,
The beauteous Wolf-head blew the flambeau out,
And then—
Al. Well!
Wal. Then, the light being out, you know,
To all that follow'd, I was in the dark.
Now you look grave. In faith I went to sleep.
Could a grim wolf rival my gentle lamb?
No, truly, girl: though in this wilderness
The trees hang full of divers colour'd fruit,
From orange-tawny, to sloe-black, egad,
They'll hang until they rot or ere I pluck them,
While I've my melting rosy nonpareil.
Al. O! you're a Judas!
Wal. Then I am a Jew!

ON RELIGIOUS MADNESS OR ENTHUSIASM.

I THINK it is pretty evident that madness is a super-abundance of vital spirits, which must burst their vessel, if they do not overflow, or be let out by tapping; but which way soever they find their evacuation, they generally ferment first, and make a terrible combustion within. This is the devil which haunts us, and often carries away part of an empty house, or blows it up. If he ascend to our garrets or upper regions, he disorders the brain, and shews visions, airy and romantick images and appearances, carries the hero out of himself, and then sends him armed cap-a-pee, in wild expeditions, to encounter wind-mills, and giants of his own making; till at last he return home (if ever he return home) transported with his victory, and in his own opinion a most consummate knight-errant.

Whenever the mind cannot be confined within its inclosure, but flies like *Phaeton* into the great abyss, and gives the full reins to imagination, it will quickly be carried out of its knowledge, and ramble about wherever fancy, desire, or vision, leads it. It will quickly rise above humanity, become proper conversation for the celestial beings; and when once it can persuade itself into such angelical company, will certainly despise all other; and the man who is animated by it will think he has a right to gov-

ern all. If the excess of any passion be madness, the excess of them altogether is exorbitant and outrageous madness; and whoever can get it into his head that he has secret communications with the deity, must have all his passions at work together.—The awe of a divine presence must strike him strongly with fear and reverence: The fancied indulgence and condescension shewn him, must raise the highest love, adoration and transports of joy: So visible a partiality of the deity to him beyond other men, must create pride and contempt towards others: Such a support and assistance must inspire the highest courage and resolution to overcome all opposition: Hatred and revenge to all who do not believe him will bring up the rear. At last the jumble of all these passions, with many more, will make an accomplished reformer of mankind.

You never knew a madman of any sort, who was not wiser than all mankind, and did not despise his whole race, who were not blessed with the same obliquity of head. Those in *Bedlam* think that they are all mad who are out of it; and the madmen out of *Bedlam* pity the madmen in it. The *Virtuoso*, or dealer in butterflies, who lays himself out in the science of blue and brown beetles, thinks all science but his own to be useless or trifling. The collectors of old books are of opinion, that learning, which is intended to improve and enlighten the understanding, is inseparable from dust, and dirt, and obscurity, or contemptible without them. The Pedant loads his heavy head with old words, and scorns all those who are not accomplished with the same lumber.

Now, all these madmen, and many more who might be added, are harmless enthusiasts; and their pride being part of their madness, is only a jest. But your holy enthusiast is often a mischievous madman, who out of pure zeal for God, destroys his creatures, and plagues, and harasses, and kills them for their good. The Saracens, a barbarous, poor, and desert nation, half naked, without arts, unskilled in war, and but half armed, animated by a mad Prophet, and a new religion, which made them all mad; overrun and conquered all Asia, most part of Africa, and a part of Europe. Such courage, fierceness, and mischief, did their enthusiasm inspire. It is amazing how much they suffered, and what great things they did, without any capacity of doing them, but a religion which was strong in proportion as it wanted charity, probability, and common sense.

They saw rapturous visions in the air, of beautiful damsels richly attired, holding forth their arms, and calling to them for their embraces; and being animated by such powerful deities, no enterprize was too hard for them. They scarce ever departed from any siege, however inferiour to it in military arts or numbers. Their constant rule was to fight till they had subdued their enemies, either to their religion or to pay tribute. They had God and his great apostle on their side, and were obstinately determined to die, or to conquer; and therefore they always did conquer. And their success confirmed their delusion; for finding that they performed greater actions than any other race of mankind ever did, or could do, they believed themselves assisted by heaven; and so esteemed their madness to be inspiration. And then it was very natural to believe that they were the sole favourites of the Almighty, who interposed thus miraculously in their behalf; that they were employed to do this work that all the good things of this world were but just rewards of their obedience; and consequently that it was their duty to plunder, distress, kill, and destroy all who resisted the will of God, and denied to give to them their undoubted right.

Now what was able to withstand the inspired savages; who if they lived and conquered, had this world, or, which was better, if they were killed, had the next? They were sure either of empire or paradise; a paradise too, which gratified their carnal appetites. There is no dealing with an armed enthusiast: If you oppose real reason to his wild revelations, you are cursed; if you resist him, you are killed. It signifies nothing to tell him, that you cannot submit to the impulses of a spirit which you have not, and which you do not believe; and that when you have the same spirit you will be of the same mind: No, perhaps that very spirit has told him, that he must kill you for not having it, though you could no more have it, than you could be what you were not.

Don Quixote was a more reasonable madman: He never beat, nor famished, nor tortured the unbelieving Sancho, for having a cooler head than his own, and for not seeing the extraordinary miracles and visions which he himself saw. If a man see battles in the air, or armies rising out of the sea, am I to be persecuted because I cannot see them too, when they are not to be seen! Or ought not rather their distracted *Seer* to be shut up

in a dark room, where no doubt he will have the same sights, and be equally happy in his own imaginations? As there is no reasoning with an enthusiast, there is no way to be secure against him, but by keeping him from all power, with which he will be sure to play the devil in God's name. I would not hurt him for his ravings, but I would keep him from hurting me for not raving too.

All men who can get it into their heads, that they are to subdue others to their opinions, reasonings and speculations, are enthusiasts or impostors, madmen or knaves. Almighty God has given no other light to men to distinguish truth from falsehood, or imposture from revelation, but their reason; and in all the addresses which he himself makes to them, appeals to that reason. He has formed us in such a manner, as to be capable of no other kind of conviction; and consequently can expect no other from us: It must therefore be the last degree of impudence, folly and madness, in impotent, fallible and faithless men, to assume greater power over one another, than the Almighty exercises over us all.

The appointing judges in controversy, is like setting people at law about what they are both in possession of. A man can have no more than all he is contending for; and therefore I can compare the quarrelling of two men about their religion, to nothing else in nature, but to the battle between Prince Volscius and Prince Prettyman, in the Rehearsal, because they were not both in love with the same mistress. *Cato's Letters.*

POLITICAL.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

AS the conduct of Mr. Madison, in his determinations upon the liberal offers made by Great-Britain, has been eminently praise-worthy, he has of course been applauded by the federalists without any qualification of praise. It was natural that they should view with suspicion a man who had been so long intimately connected with Mr. Jefferson and his most pernicious policy; and until his subsequent transactions should have removed the first unfavourable impressions, it was natural that previous

suspicions should remain undiminished. He now evinces an apparent determination to quit the course of policy which his predecessor had so unfortunately for the country adopted, and to act with sincerity, with fairness, without partiality, without hypocrisy. We soon shall see that his magnanimous conduct will excite torrents of abuse, from the party which first proposed him; the democrats will soon begin to discover flaws in his character and conduct. And before the administration of Mr. Madison is closed, we shall find him deserted by his partizans, and treated with as much coolness as the federalists expressed in regard to him previous to his election to the presidency. The federalists avow their opposition and the grounds of it; we should like to discover in the democratick papers any thing like an union or consistency of argument upon any point of political economy. They will espouse or renounce any particular person or cause without knowing why or wherefore. They will first begin to throw out hints against Mr. Madison, presently they will assume a tone of complaint, which will ultimately terminate in opposition and abuse. If he continues the system, of which he has so nobly laid the foundation, the federalists will continue to award him the meed of honour and of praise, and strenuously support his measures; but the moment he wavers from the direct path of policy which the interests of the nation promptly require him to follow, they will immediately withdraw to the other side, and think themselves doubly justified in their opposition.

In the message which the president has communicated to Congress we are presented with a state of our publick affairs, which, when contrasted with that at which they were left at the termination of the last session, may be considered peculiarly auspicious. The nation was then sinking in despair; Congress knew not how to act nor where to turn; the executive had boldly began an experiment on a whole people; the nerves and fibres were all laid open to the unfeeling touch of an ignorant practitioner, who equally disregarded the groans of the subject and the success of the operation: complaints, invective, distrust, and opposition were continually accumulating, and the country exhibited indications of a complete change in its political temper and character. The habits of the people, their property, and character were daily deteriorating, in consequence of a course of policy as ridiculous, impotent, and impracticable, as

it was dangerous, tyrannical, and destructive of social order. Foreign nations had openly disregarded our menaces and laughed at our folly; we had lost all the little respect which we had ever gained abroad. In short, the aspect of the country, in whatever light it could be considered, was more calamitously terrible, the ruin which seemed to be approaching was more overwhelming, than perhaps any other age of the world, or any country under such circumstances of previous prosperity, could exhibit. The effects of this Jeffersonian policy will cause him to be execrated to the end of time; and the last historian of America will point to that administration, as the most stupid and ignorant, the most inconsistent with its avowed principles, the most tyrannical whilst it professed lenity, the most extravagant whilst it pretended to economy, the most cowardly whilst it bullied the world, that the country had ever seen. It will be viewed as a pestilential comet, a kind of meteor, of which

"scarce such an one appears
Within the circuit of a thousand years."

As the eccentrick meteor has descended beneath the horizon, our terrours sink, and the prospect of fair weather and a serene sky begins to break upon us. Mr. Madison, we sincerely hope, will fulfil the expectations of his fellow-citizens: he has now as fair an opportunity as ever was presented to a ruler, of making himself beloved and his country happy. And we are free to say, that his message to Congress affords no indications of a contrary tendency in his character.

THE NEW TREATY.

THE principal points to be negociated in the new British Treaty with this country will be relative to the protection of persons under the merchant flag, and the rule which it will be necessary to observe in order to break the continuity of a voyage from the colony to the mother country, of a belligerent. The following plan was formerly recommended to the English government.

'Suppose the right of searching were strictly confined to national ships; that no seaman were liable to be impressed who could prove by unsuspicious documents, his having been out of England a certain num-

ber of years in proportion to his age; that the master of the American vessel, upon affidavit, supported by two sureties residing in England, that an American born subject had been taken from his crew, should have a right to obtain his surrender, for the purpose of bringing an action against the English captain in a *court of common law*, where he might obtain exemplary damages. Suppose, further, that every American merchant vessel were declared seizable, of which above a certain proportion of the crew should be British subjects who had left their country within a certain period of their lives, and that the cruizers visiting had the option, in all cases, either of seizing the men, or of suing the master and two English sureties in an English *court of common law*, for penalty upon a bond entered into once every year, and always kept among the ship's papers, obliging him not to sail with any British seamen, as above described; it appears that sufficient checks would be imposed both upon the English cruizers and the American traders. The owners of the ships would find sureties among their mercantile correspondents in England, and would be forced to use some circumspection in hiring their crews. They would probably be satisfied with the power of applying for redress to an English court of common law, greatly as they are inclined to distrust our prize tribunals; and indeed, were the present fears of the abuse of the right of search realized, a single verdict obtained against a captain in the navy for impressing an American, would have the full effect of checking the evil. Some such method as we have sketched, of loading both parties with a considerable risk in the conduct of the business—of making each act at his peril, might be arranged without much difficulty, and check the desertion of our seamen, while it secured the American traders from vexatious detention.'

We presume however, that no terms as favourable as the above plan implies, will be obtained, as even under the administration of Mr. Fox, the two projects which follow were both rejected by the British government.

PROJECT.

'In order to prevent the vessels of either party from becoming a sanctuary at sea for deserters from the vessels of the other party, it is expressly stipulated by the high contracting parties, that they will respectively enact laws, whereby it shall be made penal for the commanders or masters of the vessels of either of the parties, who may happen to be in the ports of some third power, or in the ports of one of the parties with the vessels of the other party, to receive on board and carry to sea [knowing them to be such] the sailors belonging to, and deserting from such vessels. It is further agreed, whenever the vessels having on board the sailors who may have so deserted in a neutral port,

shall arrive at any port of the party to which they belong, that such party shall cause such deserters to be delivered up, on proper application supported by lawful evidence, to the agent or consul of the other party, who may be duly authorised by his government to act in such cases.

COUNTER PROJECT.

Whereas when the one nation is at war, and the other at peace, it is not lawful for the belligerent to impress or carry off from on board the neutral, seafaring persons, who are the native subjects of the neutral, or others who are not the subjects of the belligerent; and whereas from the similarity of the language, and appearance, it may be difficult to distinguish the subjects of the two states, the high contracting parties agree, that for the greater security of the subjects of the neutral, they will enact such laws respectively, as shall subject to heavy penalties the commanders of the belligerent ships, who shall impress or carry off the native subjects of the neutral, or others not being the subjects of the belligerent, from on board the neutral vessel, on any pretence whatsoever. And they further agree to enact laws respectively, making it highly penal in the subjects of the neutral, to grant any certificates of the birth and country of sea faring persons, without due evidence and proof of the same.

There is but little doubt that some plan will be agreed upon which shall render completely secure the *persons of Americans* in American ships, and render a *British deserter* liable to be seized by his government; that the British will not relinquish their right of searching merchant vessels for their own seamen, but that if any excesses result from the practice, the officer offending will be made to repent his temerity.

On the subject of the colonial trade, our rights are more unquestionable; and the misconduct of the British has been more apparent. Their conduct has occasionally been flagrantly unjust, and in our opinion, the principles on which it has been founded, have always been unsound. The following remarks are a fair compendium of the general arguments which govern a decision upon this important topick.

'Both parties are agreed in their general definition of the rights and duties of neutrals: But this is merely a new source of perplexity, since they differ very widely in the meaning they assign to the terms of this admitted definition. In point of right, it is agreed, the neutral should suffer no prejudice from the war, but should be protected in the enjoyment of every privilege which he possessed in his intercourse with either of the belligerents in time of peace, except only when the exercise

of such privilege would interfere with the specifick measures of hostility actually and immediately pursued by the other belligerent. In point of duty, the neutral should refrain from taking any share in the war, and from giving aid or assistance to either party, for offence or defence. So far all parties are agreed; but there is matter enough for contention remaining.

'The author of *War in Disguise* contends, that, by these definitions, neutrals are excluded from the colonial trade of a belligerent; they are only to retain in war what they enjoyed in peace; but as they were entirely excluded from this trade in peace, they can have no claim to any share of it in war upon the footing of mere neutrality. Their rights are sufficiently respected, if they are left during the war in as good a condition as before it began; and they have no cause to complain if a belligerent follows out his own hostile interest, by restraining them from usurping what he has disabled the enemy from retaining. In point of fact, it is added, that this usurpation of a new trade tends directly to aid and assist one of the parties in the war, and to defeat and obstruct the lawful hostilities of the other: it is therefore a clear violation of the duties of neutrality.

'We confess that we cannot agree with any part of this interpretation. The general principle is, that a neutral shall suffer no prejudice from the war, but shall remain in point of right, on the same footing as if peace had never been violated. Now, it was the right of a neutral, in time of peace, to trade with every country in the world, from the sovereign or proprietors of which he had received permission, and to be free from all challenge or interruption from any other party. That right and that freedom, however, is utterly destroyed in time of war, if a belligerent may interfere with his trade to any quarter of the world over which it has no dominion, and with the sovereigns of which it is admitted that the rights of the neutral were to remain as free and as ample as ever. It was his undoubted right, in time of peace, to treat with every other nation for leave to trade with its colonies; and if this right is lost by the war, it is in vain to say that he has not suffered prejudice by that occurrence. It is plain, indeed, that the advocates for the exclusion are sensible of the impossibility of maintaining it on the mere want of right in the neutral, when they proceed to contend, that the trade which they wish to restrain is in substance an interference in the war, and a breach of the duties of neutrality. If this be the case, it ought no doubt to be interdicted upon that footing; but it ought to be clearly understood at the same time, that this is the ground on which it is objected to; and that all that is wanting for its justification, is to show that it does not assist the one belligerent, nor distress the other, in such a way as is inconsistent with the ſtrict duties of neutrality.

Now, upon this head, we are inclined to hold, that the assistance or obstruction to which this description applies, must bear a direct refer-

ence to the hostile efforts of the two belligerents, and that the neutral character will not be violated merely by carrying on a trade with one of them, in such a way as to give him a share of its commercial advantages, while the other is obstructed in nothing but its general desire to impoverish the traders of the enemy. To relieve a place which is blockaded, is a direct interference with a specifick act of hostility, and tends to defeat a scheme of annoyance, which is then in the course of execution. It is therefore interdicted by the law of nations, as an evident transgression of the duties of neutrality. To carry arms or warlike stores, in like manner, to a nation whose means of attack or defence must depend in a great measure on the possession of such articles, has a direct and immediate effect to alter the fortune of the war, and is nearly as palpable an interference in it, as to give or lend to one party a supply of soldiers or sailors. All traffick with a belligerent, in such articles, has accordingly been prohibited; and the right of seizing contraband of war, been recognized from time immemorial. But it has, for as long, been thought lawful for a neutral to trade freely with a belligerent in every other article, and to buy and sell with him upon terms of mutual profit and advantage; nor has it ever been pretended that this trade was illegal, merely because it was a source of emolument to the belligerent as well as to the neutral, and in this way interfered eventually with his enemy's lawful endeavours to bring him to a submission, by cutting off all his resources and means of revenue In this point of view, however, it is evident that there is no room for distinguishing between the colonial trade of a belligerent and any other trade which may be carried on between him and a neutral. The belligerent has a profit by both, and is thus enabled to carry on the war with undiminished resources, while the enemy's views of impoverishment are obstructed by means of the neutral. It can make no difference to either party, whether the neutral buys wine in the ports of the mother country, or rum in those of her colonies. The assistance which he gives to one belligerent, and the consequent obstruction he occasions to the views of the other, are the same in both cases; and if the one trade be undoubtedly lawful, it will not be easy to shew that the other is not.'

DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT.

IT is amusing to hear our Jacobins prating about the 'heart-felt satisfaction' of 'a LINCOLN' in dignified retirement. What act of Lieutenant Governour Lincoln's whole political career entitles him to the 'approbation of independent citizens?' Is this heart-felt satisfaction to be the result of His Honour's reflec-

tions on the patriotism, the wisdom, and the virtue, which have characterised his six-month's administration? We know of nothing on which his Honour can reflect with more pleasure than the circumstance of his retiring before he had lost the confidence of his own party. He ought to bless the federalists for permitting him to go into his dignified retirement so early: for had he continued in office another year, his folly and ignorance would have made him the scorn of the party who elected him, and the pity of his opponents.

We wish his honour may enjoy all the satisfaction he is entitled to in cultivating his farm, planting turnpike roads with poplars, or any other employment more congenial to his feelings.—We expect shortly, to hear him, after the example of Jefferson, asking the jacobins of Worcester, 'whose ox, or whose ass have I stolen?' and talking of heart felt satisfaction, and the pleasure of a good conscience. He undoubtedly flatters himself that his political vices and his wilful violation of the constitution will be forgotten. Deluded man! He is not beyond the reach of satire.

For when to truth allied, the wound she gives
Sinks deep, and to remotest ages lives.
When in the tomb thy pamper'd flesh shall rot,
And e'en by friends, thy memory be forgot;
Still shalt thou live, recorded for thy crimes,
Live in her page, and stink to after times.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

18 An Address from the Berean Society of Universalists in Boston, to the Congregation of the first Church in Weymouth, in answer to a Sermon Delivered in said Church, March 18, 1808, by their pastor, Rev. Jacob Norton, A. M. entitled, 'The will of God, respecting the Salvation of all men, illustrated.' Boston, Munroe, Francis & Parker.

19 Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island, and Providence plantations, at the February Session, 1809, to enquire into the situation of the Farmer's Exchange Bank in Gloucester, with the documents accompanying the same. Published by order of the General Assembly.

20 The Pleasures of Reason, or the Hundred Thoughts of a sensible young Lady; to which are added Moral Miscellanies, by R. Gillet. Boston, Lincoln & Edmands and T. Wells.